

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 SCI-06 FEA-02 TRSE-00

EB-11 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 041630Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9626

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 0983

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SL, SA

SUBJECT: AID TALKS WITH SAUDI ARABIA

1. A FIVE-MAN SAUDI ARABIAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY DEP. MIN. FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. FOUOD ALKATECH, ARRIVED IN FREETOWN JUNE 1 FOR AID TALKS WITH GOSL OFFICIALS. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO DEPART FOR CONAKRY JUNE 5.

2. THE DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL COINCIDED WITH A SPEECH BY PRESIDENT STEVENS UPCOUNTRY IN WHICH HE WAS CRITICAL OF THE ARABS FOR THEIR INSENSITIVITY TO THE PROBLEMS CURRENTLY FACED BY MANY AFRICANS AS A RESULT OF THE OIL CRISIS.

3. STEVENS ASSERTED THAT THE SOARING COST OF LIVING HAD BEEN CAUSED PRIMARILY BY THE ESCALATION OF OIL PRICES.

IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT "THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT SHUT THEIR EYES TO THE FACT THAT IN MOST OF AFRICA WE ARE NOW EXPOSED TO ECONOMIC SUFFERING FAR GREATER THAN
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THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH WERE THE TARGET OF THE ACTION

TAKEN BY THE OIL PRODUCERS". THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, HE SAID, SHOULD NOTE THAT THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE WHICH MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOUGHT FOR SO HARD IS NOW BEING GRAVELY ERODED BY THE ECONOMIC ACTION WHICH THE ARABS TOOK IN THEIR OWN INTEREST.

4. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED BY WARING THAT THE "FRIENDSHIP WHICH MOVED THE SUPPORT WHICH WE GAVE OUR FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THEIR TIME OF CRISIS IS BEING SERIOUSLY STRA

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